

5 Minute Flashcards

Card 9: Failed intubation QUESTIONS

Case:

A 55 year-old obese man is being anaesthetised by a consultant anaesthetist. They are unable to mask ventilate, so attempt to place a endotracheal tube but are unsuccessful.



(1) Identification of failed ventilation

If the anaesthetist is unable to ventilate the patient, what signs might the theatre team notice?

Calling for help

How can we call for help in theatres?
Would this be any different at night?



(3) Questions and discussion:

1. What things could the theatre team do to help the anaesthetist?
2. What position should the patient be in for eFONA?
3. Where is the **difficult airway trolley** in Gloucester and Cheltenham theatres?
4. Where is the 'emergency front of neck' kit, and the CICO guideline?
5. Who would be best suited to perform emergency front of neck airway during the daytime?
6. If the eFONA kit can't be found, what equipment could the theatre team get for the anaesthetist/ ENT surgeon?



(2) A second anaesthetist arrives and is also unable to intubate the patient. They state that this is a 'Can't Intubate, Can't Oxygenate' (CICO) emergency. What does this mean?

Written by Lulu Rashid, Oke Okonkwo and Katie Patton

Card 9: Failed intubation ANSWERS!

(3)

1. Get resus trolley, get difficult airway trolley.
Speak up! "Do we need to consider a front of neck airway?"
2. Neck in extension... consider sliding up the bed
3. Cheltenham: outside Theatre 3
Gloucester: main corridor and outside Theatre 8
4. Anaesthetics team to show theatre team eFONA bag in anaesthetic room
5. Either:
Anaesthetist – emergency cricothyroidotomy
or ENT surgeon – emergency tracheostomy
Check ENT theatres and their coffee room!
6. Equipment:
Scalpel #10 blade
Bougie with angled tip
Tracheal tube - cuffed, size 6.0 mm.

(1) Identification

Patient turns blue
Low saturations
No capnography trace
Remember "no trace = wrong place!"

Calling for help

Emergency buzzer
Runner
2222 Airway emergency - alerts ENT

(2) Can't Intubate Can't Oxygenate

(CICO) is an airway emergency where there is an inability to restore oxygenation using any airway device (facemask, supraglottic device, endotracheal tube). This requires emergency Front Of Neck Access (eFONA).

Further learning:

Royal College of Anaesthetists / Difficult Airway Society: *Capnography – No trace = Wrong place*
NAP4 Study - Major Complications of Airway Management in the United Kingdom